



County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

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October 2, 2006

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
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From: Patricia S. Ploehn, LCSW
Director

DECEMBER 6, 2005 BOARD AGENDA ITEM #16 RE: MISSING CHILDREN MONTHLY UPDATE

On December 6, 2005, your Board directed the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to reconvene the Missing Children Task Force in order to continue in the identification and refinement of practices for the prevention and recovery of runaways; and to report back on a monthly basis with status updates on the following:

- I. Existing Countywide and community-specific services and programs, including the support that the DCFS Emergency Response Command Post can provide;
- II. Improved maintenance of the DCFS Missing Children Website;
- III. Enhancement of the DCFS Child Protection Hotline to provide specialized support for runaways;
- IV. Consideration of using the Permanency Partners Program (P-3), and;
- V. Addressing the issues that have been raised by youth who have been or are in care of the Department through corrections and modifications to the Department's policy.

UPDATES

The Runaway Task Force last convened on September 7, 2006. At that meeting additional strategies were re-capped, and possible initiatives, which the waiver may potentially fund, were discussed. The Department will report on those strategies and/or initiatives once they have been further explored.

CURRENT STATUS

I. Existing County-wide and community-specific services and programs, including the support that the DCFS Emergency Response Command Post can provide:

As outlined in the July 1, 2006 Board report, the Department's Emergency Response Command Post maintains its procedures by which to monitor for runaway youth. The division also continues to document specific information on that population for use in regionally based Team Decision-Making (TDM) conferences. A follow-up report will be made to your Board upon any changes regarding this practice.

II. Improved maintenance of the DCFS Missing Children Web site:

As reported in prior Board reports, the Department has completed the training of regional office staff on appropriate ARK's data entry. In addition, to continue on-going maintenance of the data, we have will be conducting a "Train the Trainer" exercise to ensure that there is overall comprehension of the obligation to maintain efficient and expedient data entry.

III. Enhancement of the DCFS Child Protection Hotline to provide specialized support for runaways:

The Department, through task force recommendation, continues its efforts to interface with the State in reporting Runaways as missing when suitable. It is critical to the Department's mission to make certain that we are forming collaborative partnerships in an effort to keep children and youth safe. We will detail updates in subsequent reports to the Board.

IV. Consideration of using the Permanency Partners Program (P-3):

As outlined in the March 1, 2006 Board report, all runaways are now referred to P-3 staff. A follow-up report will be made to your Board upon any changes regarding this initiative.

V. Addressing the issues that have been raised by youth who have been or are in care of the Department through corrections and modifications to the Department's policy.

Each Supervisor
October 2, 2006
Page 3

CONCLUSION

DCFS continues to discuss and implement strategies, which will effectively reduce the runaway population. We are also aware that additional modifications must be explored to further accommodate this challenging population.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact me, or your staff may contact Armand Montiel, Acting Board Relations Manager at (213) 351-5530.

PSP:AS:cm

Attachment

c: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

**Abducted & Runaway Foster Childrens System (ARKS)
DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON RUNAWAY CHILDREN SERVICED BY DCFS**

October 2, 2006

Category	Totals / Subtotal	Percent	Comments
Runaway DCFS Foster Children as reported in ARKS System	420		
Age			
0-9 years old	0	0%	
10-13 years old	14	3%	
14-17 years old	406	97%	Majority are teenagers 14-17
	420		
Gender			
Female	293	70%	More girls than boys runaway
Male	127	30%	
	420		
Ethnicity			
American Indian	2	0%	
Black	120	29%	
Asian/Pacific Islander	15	4%	
Hispanic/Latino	226	54%	
White	57	14%	
	420		
Placement Type			
Foster Home	187	45%	
Group Home	149	35%	
Relative/Guardian Home	79	19%	
(Not Indicated)	5	1%	
	420		
Location of CSW			
SPA 1 Lancaster	13	3%	
SPA 1 Palmdale	24	6%	
SPA 2 North Hollywood	27	6%	
SPA 2 Santa Clarita	19	5%	
SPA 3 El Monte	2	0%	
SPA 3 Glendora	35	8%	
SPA 3 Pasadena	13	3%	
SPA 3 Pomona	15	4%	
SPA 4 Metro North	39	9%	
SPA 5 West Los Angeles	18	4%	
SPA 6 Century	18	6%	
SPA 6 Compton	18	4%	
SPA 6 Hawthorne	8	2%	
SPA 6 Wateridge	32	8%	
SPA 7 Belvedere	34	8%	
SPA 7 Santa Fe Springs	36	9%	
SPA 8 Lakewood	30	7%	
SPA 8 Torrance	23	5%	
Adoptions	4	1%	
Specialized Programs	12	3%	
(Not Indicated)	0	0%	
	420		